

- 16 -

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO DEPLOYABLE BOOMS

5 This invention concerns improvements relating to deployable booms. An articulated boom is provided comprising a support arm with bend defining a number of hingedly-connected joints, the arm being adapted and arranged to carry an antenna reflector so that in use, the reflector can move between a first stowed position in which the reflector is in folded condition and a second deployed position in which the reflector is in deployed condition.

10 This invention extends to spacecraft (2) incorporating into one or more of its sides a plurality of such articulated booms (5, 15). The support arms of the booms can be advantageously positioned at the circumference of the associated reflectors (6, 16) when in stowed condition, such as to allow the reflectors to be neatly stacked together within a space defined by the launch
15 vehicle fairing (not shown).

 It is to be appreciated that the proposed structure finds utility in the support deployment of multiple antenna reflectors in various space missions if desired, and bears structural advantage in terms of weight saving, simplicity of design (by taking up less accommodation space) and efficient accommodation
20 of its apertures/reflectors.

(Figure 1)